

37

# Reasons to prove the Complying Clergy, and those that Adhere to them, guilty of Schism.

*England. - Church of England - Clergy. [Appendix]*

I. Altho' in the Catholick Church there be many Members, yet they All make but **One Body**.

II. When the Members Divide, or Separate from, and Oppose each other, the *Unity of the Body is broken*

III. Now such Breach of Unity, is a **Schism**.

IV. And **They** which caus'd it, are the **Schismaticks**; which is manifest by their *Propositions*.

1. **T**HAT Bishops are Vested with Christ's Authority; it being handed down to them by a Lineal Succession from the Apostles, who were immediately Commission'd by our Lord himself.

2. That this Authority is purely Spiritual, and cannot be Conveyed by any Laick or Number of Laicks whomsoever.

3. That therefore, no Lay-Power can devest them Thereof; and consequently,

If any Lay-Man, or Body of Lay-Men should pretend so to do, such their Act would be Null and Void, unless their Authority be greater than Christ's.

4. That the Bishop, who should enter the See of any Bishop so pretendedly Depriv'd, claiming the Spiritual Obedience of such Prior Bishop's People, would be guilty of Schism, by dividing the People, and setting up Altar against Altar.

5. That all who communicate with Schismatical Bishops, are Involv'd in the same Schism with such Bishops themselves; for they all make but one Body; and if the Head be Schismatical, the Members must be so likewise.

6. That Schismatical Clergy-Men have no Title to the Spirit's Concurrence with their Administrations; Because the SPIRIT is but ONE, and accompanieth the Ministration of those only who preserve His Unity in the Bond of Peace; He hath also Commanded Us to mark them which CAUSE DIVISIONS, and avoid them; which he would never have done if he had been with them, or did wait on their Administrations to give an Efficacy thereto.

7. That therefore, those who communicate with them, Deprive themselves of all ordinary Means of Sanctification, and consequently of Eternal Happiness: forasmuch as [without Holiness no Man shall see the Lord.]

8. That when Circumstances are as above supposed, the Laity ought to adhere to, and Communicate with their first and Rightful (tho' pretendedly Deprived) Bishop, and his Successors, for the Reasons aforesaid, particularly those annexed to the three last Propositions.